

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 84

December 2020

Dave Lacelle/Mike Halhed

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**Group News.** The major news this time around is that one of our FC&MM study group members has formed a Canadian Fancy Cancel Facebook Group. This Facebook group is NOT a replacement for our BNAPS Fancy Cancel & Miscellaneous Markings Study Group, and it is hoped that the two groups can complement each other. Facebook is a more modern media and should bring some younger people into our area of study.

I have some personal concerns about joining Facebook, however I will do so and then join the other group. I will be a neutral observer so as to reduce duplication or possible conflict between the groups. I do not represent BNAPS in the Facebook group. I will continue to give my personal opinions on “new” finds, authenticity etc but would ask that such requests be sent directly to me at [fancycancel@hotmail.com](mailto:fancycancel@hotmail.com)

I invite any members of the Facebook group to join our BNAPS group, several already have. Likewise, for our group to join them at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3332044113525160>.

**Why not send to both groups? Any comments on the above would be appreciated.**

We have one new member, and one returnee, Firmin Wyndels is new, and Richard Creighton (Think “everything Muskoka”) has returned. Our membership seems to be consistently between 85 to 90. It is dues time again, if applicable a dues notice will accompany this newsletter. Dues are \$10.00 per year, and I wish to send a **Thank you** to those of you who have already paid. I try to keep the dues low, about 30% of our members are BNAPS required mailings, free to other philatelic agencies, or free to members over 80 (? You ? Please advise if so.). There are about 12 members who receive snail mailed copies and I hope you enjoy the philatelic frankings. ( ? Do any other members want snailmail also? Please advise.) The Merville P.M. enjoys the stamp variety and the chance to postmark The King every once in a while. Unfortunately, I will have to delete three members for non-payment of dues for more than two years.

Nuff said, now on to stamp stuff. This will be again a very mixed newsletter, and I have broken with my usual habit of presenting items in a list (by member) fashion. Four covers have significantly unusual cancel use and they will be first presented as individual items

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

**Newsletter #81 Nov. 2019, pg. 6.** The “skull and crossbones” cancel on newspaper. I have recently reviewed my old research notes (USA fancy cancels) from Billig’s Philatelic Handbooks and can confirm that it is not listed there as USA cancel. If space permits, I shall run a page of these Billig’s illustrations at the end of this newsletter.

**Newsletter #82 Feb. 2020, pg. 2.** The reference to the “Wolfville” oval ?parcel? cancel. Norbert Hobrath confirms that this is not a parcel cancel and was probably locally made and used as a CDS would be. I might add that in some of the smaller centers, the Town Office and the P.O. may have been a desk apart (or less) and hammers intended for OFFICIAL town business may have been used by the P.O. Thanks, Norbert.

**Newsletter #82 Feb. 2020, pg. 5.** The Map stamp with the indistinct CDS has been confirmed as a Toronto Sub Station. Thanks, Vince.

**Newsletter #83 June 2020, pg. 5.** Mike Halhed’s registered cover has an interesting detail which I missed: It is a 2 cent Anomalous Registered rate accepted by the US PO for a very short time. It turns out to be one of only 17 known “Anomalous” covers.

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Jim McCormick sent in this neat little beastie. A fancy cork has been used to cancel a (disputed?) rate mark, and also very carefully applied to cancel a Montreal Apr. 28 1873 CDS.

This is a late use of a stampless cover, (OK up to 1875) and a very late use of the Montreal "tombstone" style (2<sup>nd</sup> type issued 1861) CDS. There are several possible interpretations but the most likely is.....



JP Morgan was from a prominent Montreal family which had (among other things) founded "Morgans Department Store" in 1845. It was a major Ottawa downtown store up to the 1960's. The ms at top left "Ch(arge) Dr(awer) 203" (?senders handwriting?) was used for companies with large regular bulk mailing rights, such as "circulars" etc. (Is this why they are called circulars, they circulated through the mails?). The Montreal P.O. (CDS) originally charged this with a "5" cent rate marking possibly thinking it was unstamped and not prepaid to a private individual. (The "Esq" {Esquire} after "Morgan" usually meant a private residence, or estate, but why the 5 and not 3 charge?) This appears to have been changed probably by a Montreal PO Inspector who realized it was commercial and not personal nor Government. Mr. Morgan was neither an MP, nor Senator thus FREE government mailing did not apply. The P.O.I. carefully (and very well) corked out the older rate and CDS. In order to change the rate, the P.O.I. used the old tombstone CDS to make it more "official" looking with the word PAID in the CDS and credited it "3", a change of eight cents. Credits were usually in red ink. The sideways ms appears to read "Accepted 2 June", and was probably applied by someone at Morgan's drawer 203. Clear as mud? Right? See also pg. 6 & 13 for other "Morgan" covers.

Robin Simpson sent in this example of a fancy cork L 1213, cancelling an incorrect rate. The bottom left corner originally had a ms "Photographs". There was a "photographers rate" in the early SQ era. This has been changed to ms "Bookpost" which was effective Feb. 1888. L1213 is unconfirmed use TG&B R RW in 1880 which is a bit too early. There is no CDS to clear this up. The cover is very crumpled which makes me think of someone carrying his cherished family photo in his top pocket near his heart!



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Bob Stock sent in this curious item which I have cut down. It has been described as a cork with numeral "15" (circled) inserted. Several other interpretations are possible. I think it is a sorta favour cancel in that a P.M. accepted a previously used stamp by placing his cork cancel over the previous cancel. In other words, a cork cancel cancelling a cancel! Another is that the stamp has been cancelled twice while in transit (possibly in USA) either accidentally or to prevent reuse due to the first "15" cancel being too weak.

Close examination (Queens neck etc.) reveals that the stamp has two cancels, a weak (cleaned?) under cancel containing the "15" and the barred cork. All four sides of the stamp have brown residue from a re-gumming probably by the (thrifty) sender. This glue is more apparent now as it has aged. The original cancel may have looked like our D26a "...a similar "5" ... on a S.Q. ... Oct. 1893".



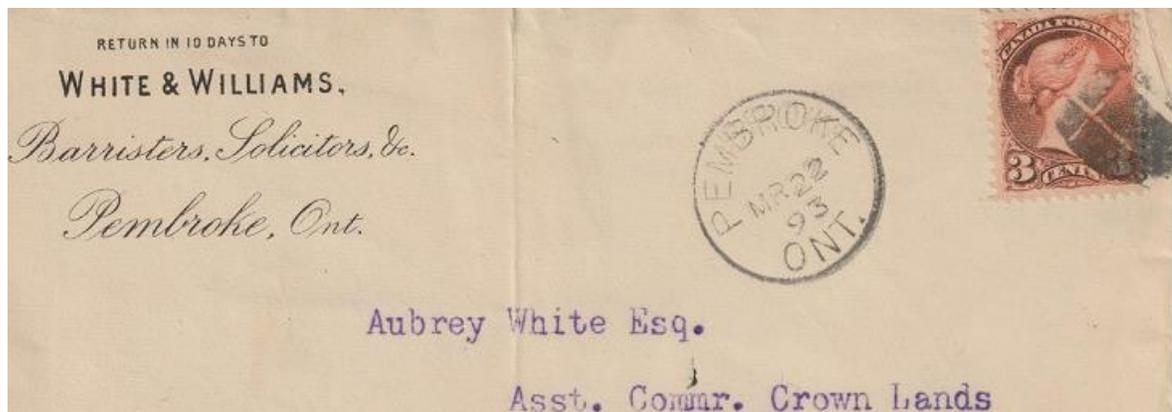
And just room enough to squeeze in a fourth unusual fancy cancel use...

Firmin Wyndels sent in this item. The stamp is not tied due to the angle of strike and the F1 is sorta tied by a bit of ink from the number 440. This is very similar in style and use to another "ACTON" cancel L 243 and is an attempt to make the REGISTRATION use look more important. As above, this can also be considered as a PM's favour cover.

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## CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

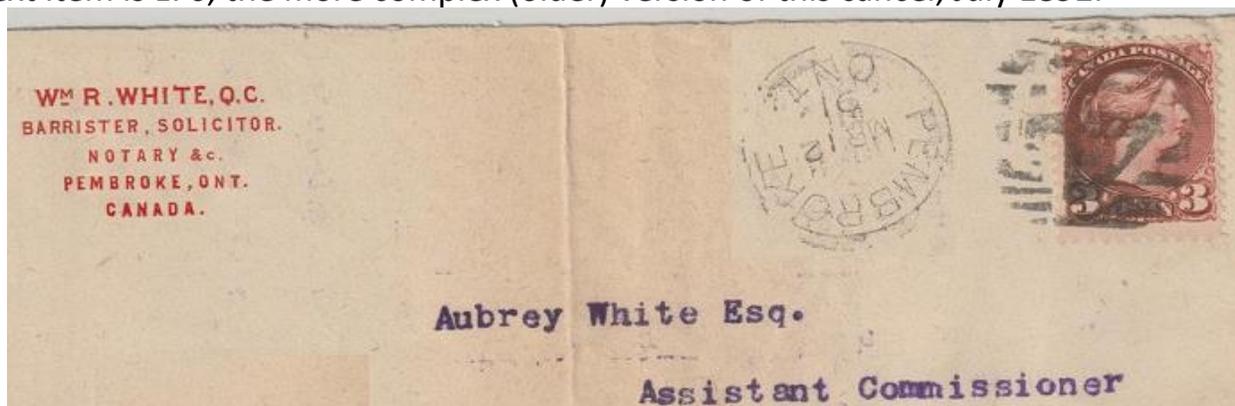
The next items are from Mike Halhed, and are a continuation of his "Pembroke 4's" covers from newsletter 83. For some reason Pembroke used the numeral "4" as an official cancel. One suggestion has been that it was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest P.O. in the County, my personal "guess" is that it may have been the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway Post stop on the line west from Ottawa Main (and PO Headquarters). Some of the "Pembroke 4's" are roughly slashed corks, and appear to age and grade into each other. It would take just seconds to recut or clean these with a knife and thus create a sorta new cancel.



The item above is (I think) L78, an extreme late state of L77, now with date of Mar. 1893. This was "unconfirmed 1893" in our book.

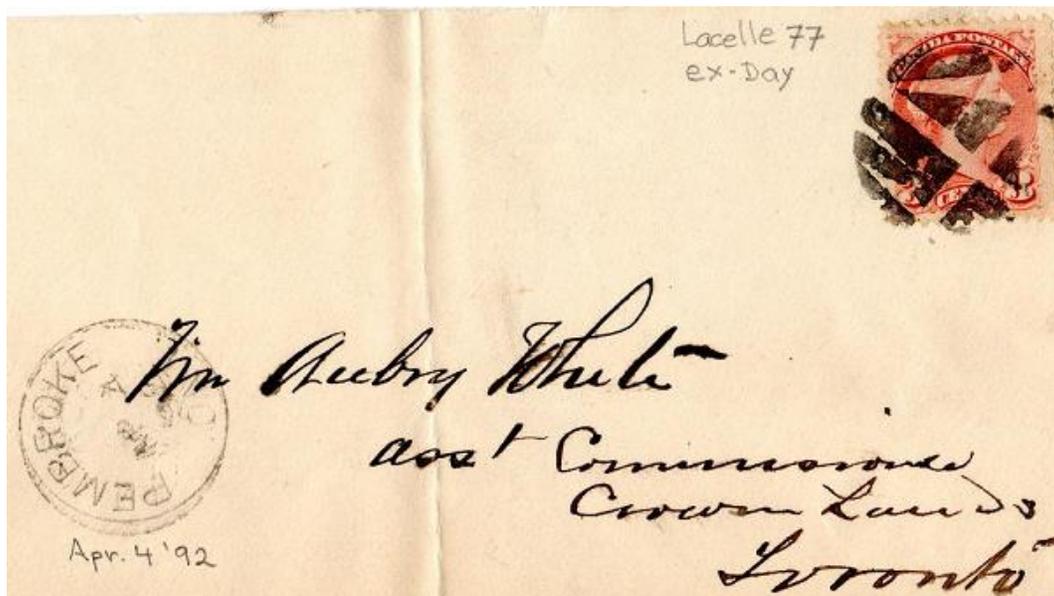


The next item is L76, the more complex (older) version of this cancel, July 1892.

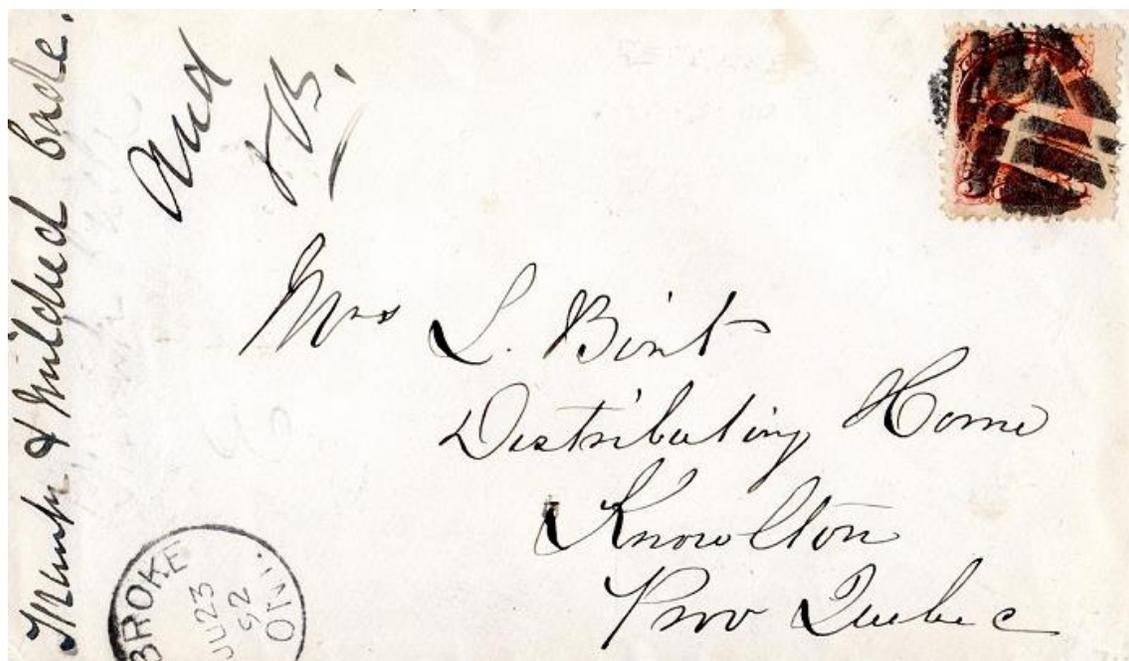


The above is an early example of L75.

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The above is a fine example of L77 roughly in the middle of its usage Oct. 1891 – Oct. 1893.

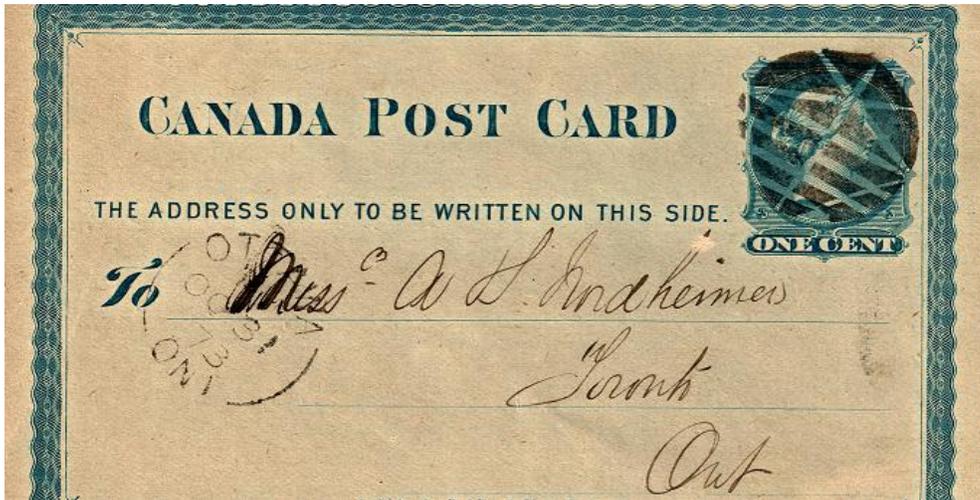


This is another example of L76, late use version however it has another interesting feature. The Knowlton “Distributing Home” aka “Centre” distributed children! They were supposedly orphans (or from destitute families) from Britain and were often abused when they were used as free farm hands or servants. (This may be a bit of historical back judging, times were different in 1882) I note the name of the inquiring family is at left, but I’m not going there....

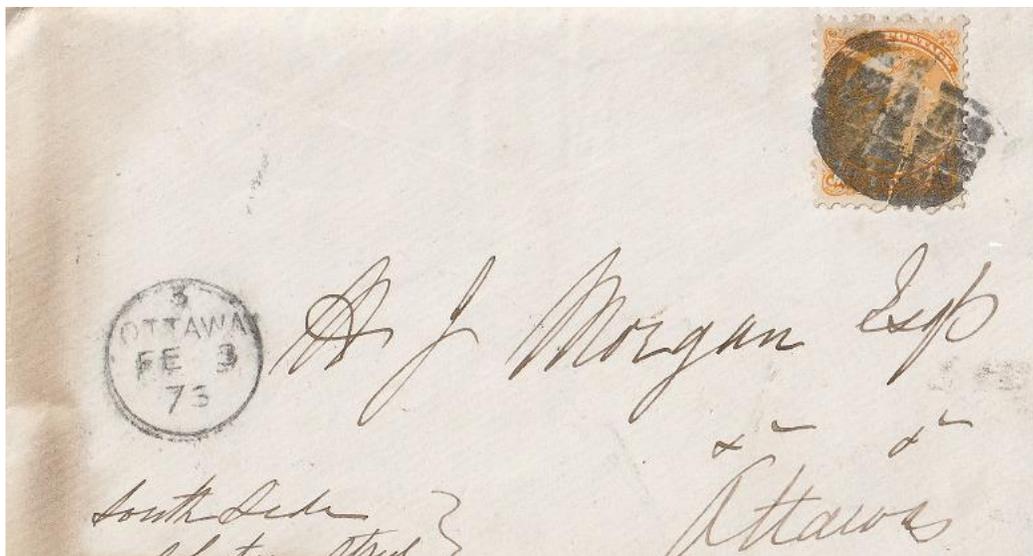
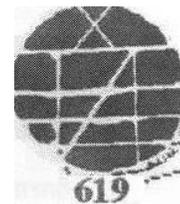
Looking back over Mike’s Pembroke stuff, there is a commonality I had missed. The CDS’s are usually in the left corner as long as this does not cover any of the address, and the P.M. made a point of really CLOBBERING his stamps with bold SON strikes. Obviously, he took pride in his job.

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Mike also sent in the "Ottawa Geometrics" below from his multi-collector online study. The first (OC 31, 1873) is very similar to L 1666, and slightly to L1667 used in 1877, and 1878. I am a wee bit skeptical (say a "7" on my 1-10 scale) about this item as there is no need to cancel a postcard, however the CDS and cancel inks appear to match, and Ottawa Geometrics are known back to 1871. Anyone have any other examples?



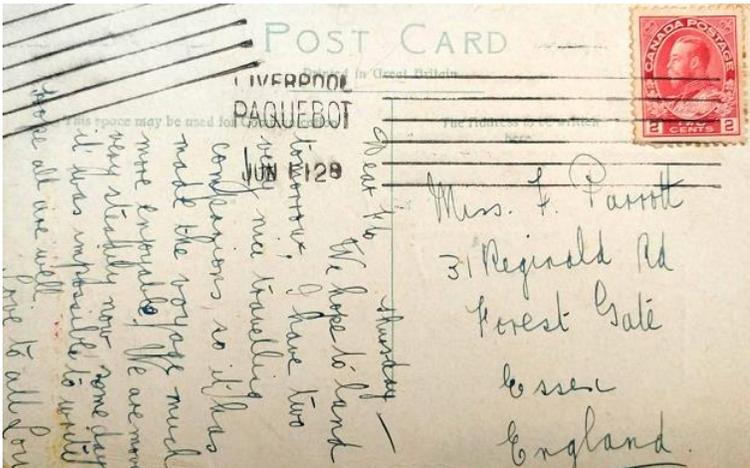
This is L 619, previously known on stamps from around 1875. D&S (#622a) stated "Probably Ottawa". Now confirmed, Ottawa July 1874. Note also this is another "Morgan" cover, now charged to "Box 497 Ot." (But charge for what?)



This item may be just a hatched cork, or a poor strike of an Ottawa geometric. I include it here as it confirms that the "Morgan" covers were going to the Morgan Department Store by ms "South side Slater Street".

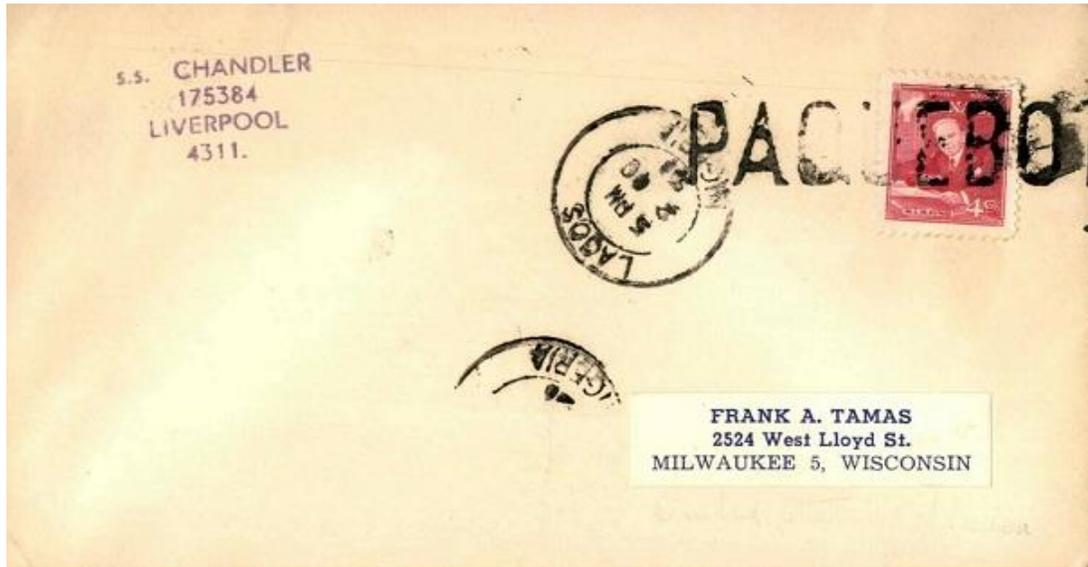
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Mike Street has sent in a bunch of references to foreign cancels on Canada from a variety of sources. Some of these are philatelic or souvenir in style, however they certainly qualify as "miscellaneous markings". I have shown these at reduced scale, and with few comments as they are largely self explanatory.

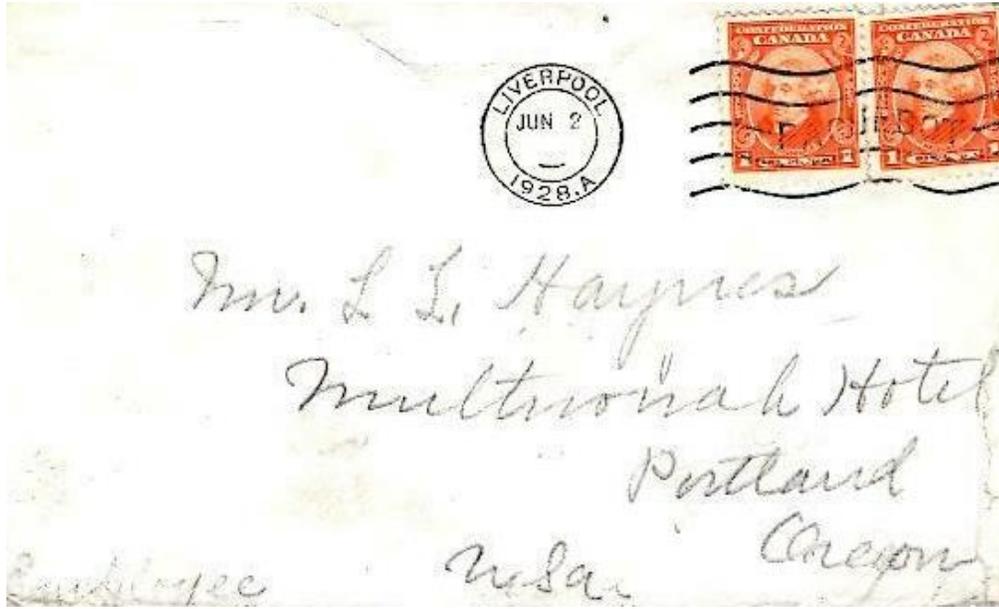


Posted on Board, Liverpool paquet june 1928.

To Essex UK cut square 1960. Cancelled ?



Canada stamp, Lagos Nigeria CDS, SS Chandler (UK) PACQUEBOT (French spelling) to USA....

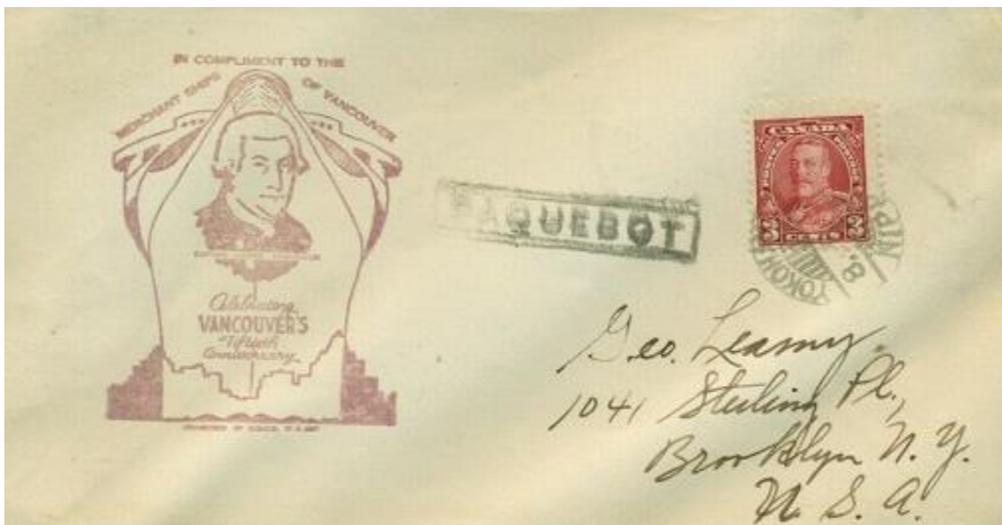


Canada stamps, Liverpool UK PACQUEBOT CDS, to USA.

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Marine HMS Danae cancel. Note "Compliments of The British Columbia Airmail and Ship Cancellations Society" hs.



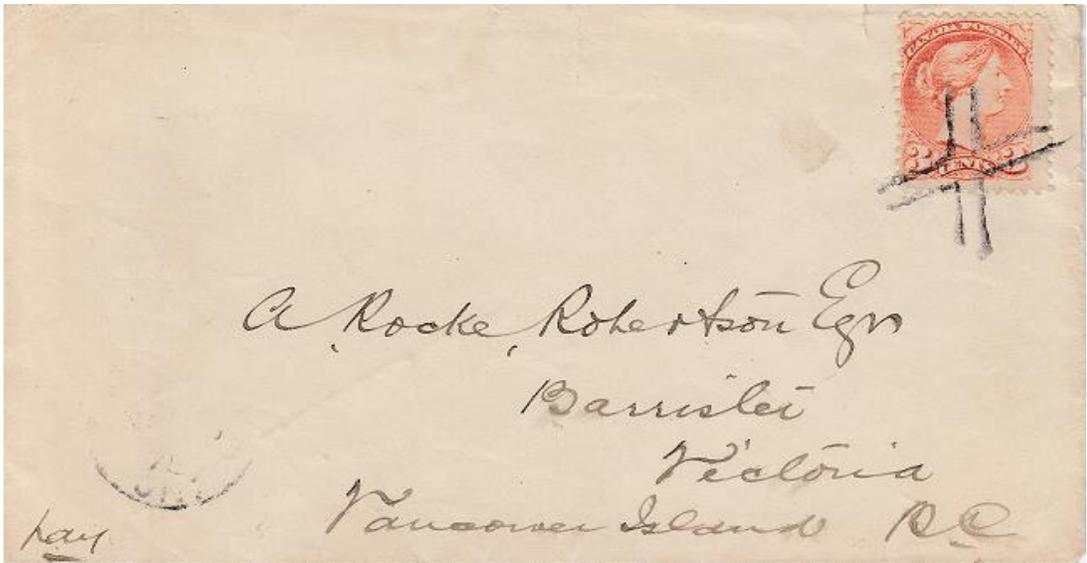
Canada stamp and Vancouver Merchant Ship's marking, PAQUEBOT, Yokohama Japan CDS



Canada stamp, Amsterdam Holland CDS.

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I have one more from Phil Visser's Owen Sound material which should have run in NL 83.



This appears to be L1162, used Owen Sound Apr. 1877 – Mar. 1879. The date is Nov. 1876, other CDS details are unreadable. This cancel overlaps L 1161, May 1876 – Aug. 1878. This is probably a similar cancel, which has been considered as one of two rather than three similar cancels. Owen Sound also used a fourth crossroad L1163.

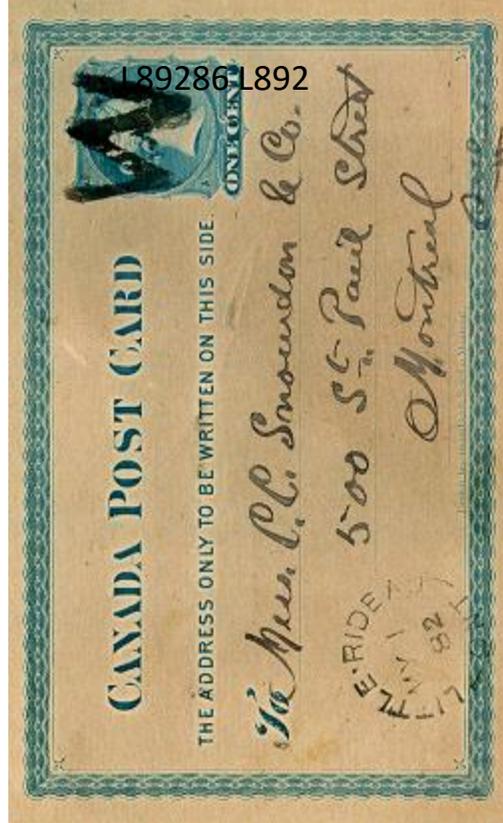


Eugenia 13/11/1883.  
 Mr. Cook feels has two Microscopes  
 from me. One of them in small box together  
 with French Press as object n. - the other  
 Please have him leave the one in Box and  
 one dollar with it as to speed for if not the  
 money to be had then Best articles &c. With  
 you for me - This card is your asking  
 for asking & receiving than as you can tell  
 him - yourself or whom you delegate all  
 the same  
 Yours truly  
 R. Purdy

Firmin Wyndal also (see pg. 3) sent in this lovely example of L 187 used Eugenia Ont., May 1883 – Nov. 1883. This is a new late date and is signed by PM Purdy. I have seen three other PC's signed by him, as well as one strange PC with the cancel, but unaddressed, and with no message! It is possible that the item above was never sent. Mr Purdy was also local Justice of the Peace, merchant etc. Perhaps he used the cancel as a sort of business marking, and unsent items may be unfinished items from his estate? The reference to "microscope" in the text is apparently really a reference to a "box magnifier", which is still an odd thing to be selling from a store in Eugenia in 1883. Stranger & stranger...

Firmin also sent in the two items next page, L586, Moncton NB Oct. 1881- Nov. 1882 and L 892 used Little Rideau Ont. May 1882. Both are from the correct PO's and times. The message on the latter item (re. missing invoice) was signed by W. Ross, no doubt a close relative of PM R. Ross. (? Does the "W" cancel refer to "W" Ross, merchant?) Minor caveat, PC's do not have to have the "stamp" part cancelled, do any of you have other examples of L892? Other confirming examples of L586 exist.

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Norbert Horbrath sent in the item at left below as part of his research on parcel cancels. We agree that it is probably foreign on Canada aka "New York" however Toronto subs York and North York were also possibilities. I note that the poor little cut down beastie also has a weak CDS and purple pen cancel. Comments welcomed...

Norbert also sent an old time album page of "2 Cent Small Queens, Cork Cancels" which was a great trip down memory lane for me. Real stamps, hinges, WOW . Thanks Norbert. I show three examples below; L1462 N.D.W. Montreal, L1559 not located, and possibly a BoggyHead, similar to L 1360, Toronto.



Jim Davis asked what the different letters in the flag cancels represent, and sent in this example. My ans. "They are Bickerdike machine canceller die numbers, A to G on this type. Yours is type 8 flag cancel "D" used Feb. 23 '98 – Jan. 28 '02." Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook, Ed Richardson, BNAPS, 1973.



Brian Hargreaves sent in this new addition to our book, Crown Wax Seals, Appendix 4a. Hilliardton Ont. The PO opened in 1903 so this is a bit late use of the Jubilee stamp. These sealing wax hammers were supposed to be used for official purposes such as sealing mailbags.



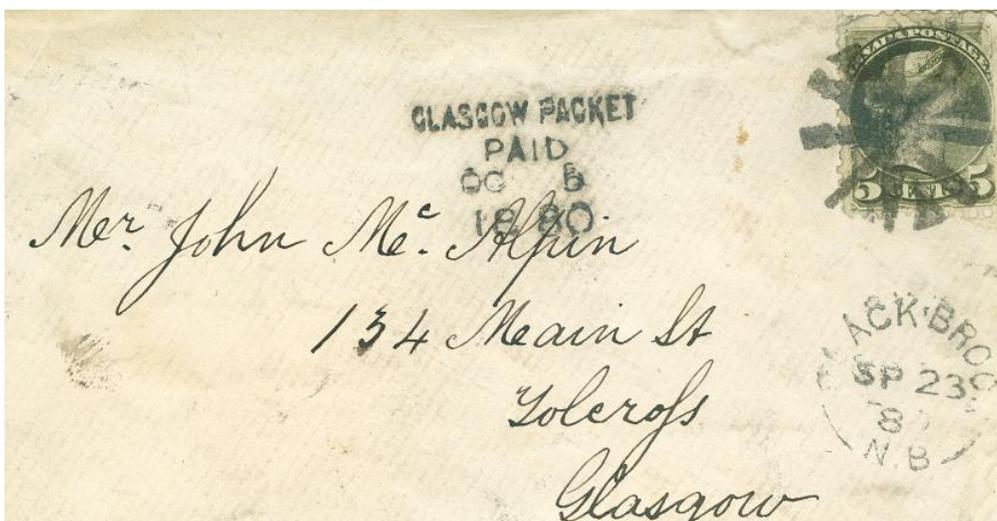
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*M Boyd Esq  
Rossie House  
Toronto*

Gary Arnold (BNAPS Squared Circle SG Chair) sent in this rather obscure (hard to see that is) fancy cork from his Bobcaygeon Ont. cancels. I fiddled with the contrast and it appears to be either just a hatched cork, or possibly an intaglio version of our L1584. I note that the perfs are stained, however here it appears to be "foxing" (paper oxidation) as it also is on the cover paper rather than from old glue. Our L261 is another fancy from Bobcaygeon in 1880. Do any of you have any Bobcaygeon material you might wish to share with Gary?

Ron Smith sent in this sorta hybrid cancel in that it is similar to L1585 but with three small triangles between some of the rays. Black Brook NB, Sept. 1880.



This item leads me into some review of the other Black Brook fancy cancels, both letters "OK". Neither of these have appeared in previous newsletters and our book is rather vague

about the first "OK", L 678. After reviewing a mere 28 (!) references to these cancels, I conclude that L678 is on "shaky ground". I was able to find one text reference to a cover which was not illustrated, "1882 Black Rock". There are three references (one is a duplicate) to on stamp examples, a 5 cent issued 1888, and an 1890's 3 cent SQ. The 5 center was illustrated, there is another cancel also. Jarrett stated use in 1880 which would have been based on a stamp issue date. I also found an article which mixed up the two cancels and another which presented a Tennessee USA "OK" as the Canadian one (and vice versa). L679 is different; there are at least seven covers between Apr. 1890 and Jan. 1897. (There is an error in our book L679 "AP80" should be "AP90".) Such fun....



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Ron also sent in this very worn leaf cancel at right, L1194 new late date Souris East PEI, Apr. 1884-May 1896.



Jim McCormick sent the above two examples of nine and seven ray corks at left above, and Guy Jeffery sent in the cover below (which I have cut down) with a seven-ray cork from Maidstone, Ont., Aug. 1879. An uneven number of rays would be harder to carve if symmetry was desired. This was not an issue with the example of L1503 (Petrolia, Ont., Feb. 1880) or L1507 (Woodstock, Ont., July 1879). Nine ray covers from Ottawa, Ont. and Westbourne, Man. are also known.



Robin Simpson sent in the very impressive strike of the "Ottawa 8" cancel L97. He also had two questions: Did DP Ross also carve the Toronto fancy cancels similar to the 1 cent LQ above or L1628 for example? DP Ross was paid by the Toronto "Post Office Inspection" branch for carving the "Toronto 2's" cancel series L15 to L54 according to the 1870 Postmasters General Report. He did not work for the POI, but was employed by the Toronto Main PO. There are style similarities with these two groups. However, Toronto Main had 31 employees in 1870 (not counting Letter Carriers) many of whom probably carved various Toronto cancels.

Robin's second question related to what would have been used to carve the fine designs in the Toronto Fancy cancels ... some sort of tubular device? I had often wondered this too as "cork" seemed too friable (right word?) to be so finely cut. So.... using a leather punch and small thin collar from a pen, I did the experiment at right. The circular cork did not "work", cork stuck in and to the tubes. The rectangle is a softer material (potato) and shows the fine thin circular features of these Toronto cancels. So, the cancels were probably carved from soft wood or soft rubber, potato was probably not used officially!



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Bob Stock sent this in earlier this year however I somehow lost the text of his email. This may have happened when Telus BC switched over Email management to Google, and we all had to do some basic re-organizing. If any of the rest of you sent material earlier this year and it has **yet to appear in a newsletter, please advise.**

This cover has two significant items. Firstly it is another sent to "Morgans Store" in Ottawa and gives us an official title for Mr. Morgan "Keeper of the Records". Secondly, it is the third cover with this Hull Que. cancel used in June 1876 and referenced in NLs 81 & 82. It deserves to be listed. (Odd however that the Keeper of the records did not pen in any receiver or filing marks as was usual; in this era.)

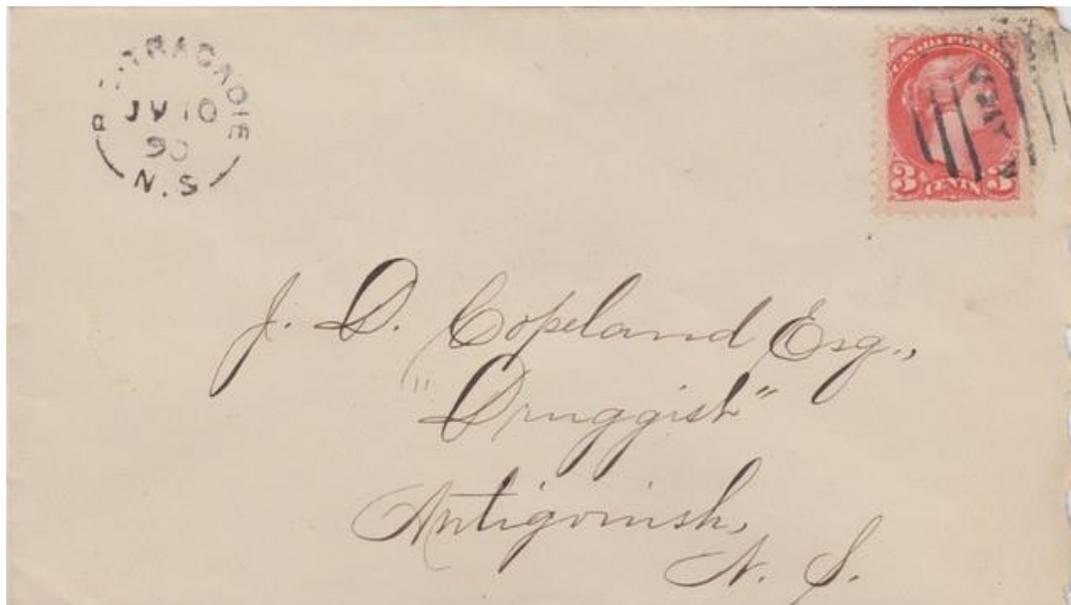


718a

Guy Jeffrey sent in the next three covers. At first, I thought that the above "PH" strike was a fake based on our new listing L718a. My reaction was based on the ink, it seems a very watery writing type which would probably dissolve right off if the stamp was soaked. The stamp is also cancelled by the registration "R" which is not in the same ink, another bad sign. When I went back to the discovery copy in NL 71 (strike at right above), I found that it was also in this strange ink, both strikes were SON, both CDS's were angled the same, however there was a nine month gap Sept 1898 (Guy's) to the other May '1899. Both were to Yarmouth NS, and I am uncertain if the senders handwriting is the same on both. Weighing all the above, I would now give his (and the other) cover a "5" on my 1-10 scale of authenticity. Another example would be great.

This next cover is an oddity: A barred cancel with a name (or word) in it. At first, I thought this was the barred Halifax cancel, L488. It isn't. I then thought it might be a private business marking, but it is clearly used as an official cancel. Used Big Tracadie NS, "JU" 1890. The cancel does not seem to read or be wide enough for "Big Tracadie" **Any other examples?**

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Guys last item is a somewhat early "OHMS" cover which presumably had the stamps added as the "Registration" charge would not be free (?). The crown cancel is our L1295a, apparently used only in Halifax NS Sept. 1876 to Jan. 1886, here in fairly late state Nov. 1885.



There seems to have been an unintentional Nova Scotia and/or Halifax theme in the last few pages, so I will add one more. The last issue of Topics had an excellent article by Tom Meyerhof on the Halifax 2 cent SQ bisects. The examples he shows have the "HALIFAX" in bars cancel, our L488, book illustration at right. His examples are in the correct range of use for this cancel, Dec. 1881 to ? 1892. He concludes (among other things) that the bisects were more or less unofficially applied by someone in the Halifax PO and accepted there as valid postage. They do not appear to be mailed to stamp collectors, nor to have been made by Henry Hechler (Halifax stamp dealer etc.) The Halifax PO did 'look the other way' when it accepted some of Hechler's more imaginative covers and/or "Service" markings (see next page), a bisect is nothing by comparison. Our L488 illustration (from my previous personal collection) is very odd and probably shows someone 'playing around' in Halifax. It is dated ON 28 1896. This is four years too late for the cancel, over 10 years later than other bisects, and one would think that by the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month of "ON" someone would have caught no something was wrong? No? (Sorry couldn't resist ti.) Do any of you have uses of this cancel after 1892? Stranger & stranger...



## BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 84 FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS.

I do not really have anything for this section this time, however I would like to make a few personal comments regarding Fakes etc.

As mentioned on the previous page, this is one of Henry Hechler's better covers. It can be argued that it is neither Fake, Bogus nor Spurious. Even the H.H. "SERVICE" marking which implies free mailing as this is Service (Military or government) mail is sorta OK. It was not necessary to cancel the stamp part of a Post Card and a prepaid P.C. is not



free! I also note the somewhat carefully applied Halifax CDS's and thus approval of the rates etc. This is a bit after the main use of the Halifax bisects and does not use the 'Halifax in bars' L488 which was also in use at the time. See previous page.

Hechler was doing this in different times, and then (as now) there are people who collect "pretty things" such as his covers, First Day covers, overly decorated envelopes etc.

At one time I thought this was what Lester Littlefield was doing (see Appendix 8 in our book) with his "unique" fancy covers, making some "pretty things" that someone would buy. I use the word "unique" as a set of 1960's filing cards prepared by a third party indicates that the first 24 of his "fancy cancel" covers (in Ap.8) exist only as individual covers, there are no confirming on stamp strikes, no other covers, no on piece examples, nor were they listed before the D&S publication in 1961. I ran all the index card items in several of our newsletters seeking confirming strikes. No results for the 24. Some former illustrations of his work appear at about ¾ scale at right. Pretty things, and would appeal to those who like such, and also unique items which implies rarity. Unfortunately, the index cards also revealed that LL had produced fake covers of other listed fancy cancels. Not good.



I recently learned that LL exhibited some of his work at a stamp show in the early 1960's. This explains how the index cards were prepared. The card info was copied from his exhibit.

One last comment on LL. He was a trained military draftsman, with professional experience in inks, papers, copying etc. There was a sorta military "tradition" among some (mostly) military types in the 1950's to spoof the public for their own amusement. Search "fake Modern Poetry" for an example. Too bad about the fakes, otherwise LL's work could have fit in this category.

A final thought on this theme of "producing pretty things to sell to collectors", there was no real postal need for the two, three, or four dollar 1897 Jubilee stamps....

I would like to also add a comment on this "Fakes etc" part of the newsletter. I produce the newsletter as a relaxing hobby type thing. I have no interest in competing, confronting or

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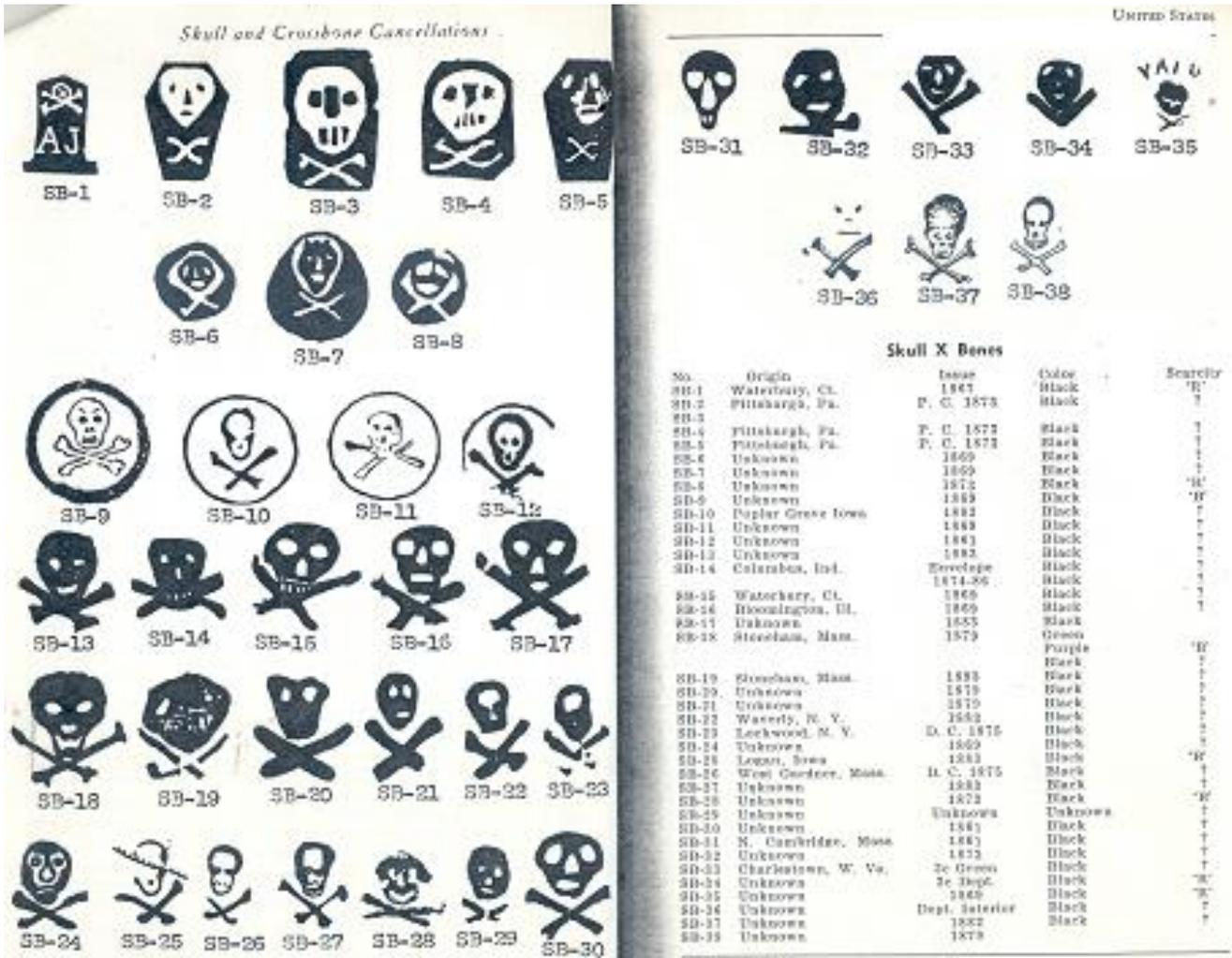
otherwise raising my blood pressure over anything in the newsletter. For this reason I do not personally attribute any item I consider a possible fake to any individual. This is for three reasons.

Firstly, the "He said/she said" rule. Tom tells Jane that Lacelle 'found a fake in John's collection'. Jane tells Harry 'Lacelle says there are fakes in John's collection' Harry tells Mary 'John's collection is full of fakes according to Lacelle ..soon... 'John makes fakes'.... (All names in preceding are coincidental...)

Secondly, you do not make friends by telling someone and others) that something they like, paid lots for, and/or showed around is FAKE. Like most people I like to have friends.

Thirdly, I am rarely 100% certain of authenticity and I thus I answer on a scale of 1 to 10. A "1" is something you would not 'give to your worst enemy' and a "10" is 'to celebrate'.

## CUT FROM BILLIG'S PHILATELIC HANDBOOKS, USA fancy skull and crossbones cancels



I mentioned Billig's on page 1, and here is a reduced scale example of one type of USA fancy cancels. I note in our book the similarity between USA cancel SB 15 (Waterbury Con.) and our L 1364 described as "Dubious".

... and after that odd note, may I wish you all well in these difficult times, and hope you all have a safe, relaxed and happy Winter.



Take Care, Dave. Lacelle

Snailmail Box 233, Merville BC V0R 2M0 Canada